UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/26729
12 November 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 11 NOVEMBER 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to present to you the attached letter from the Presidency and the Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, dated 9 November 1993.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating this letter and its attachment as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 9 November 1993 from the Presidency of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina addressed to the President of the Security Council

On 9 July 1993 the Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina put a request to the Security Council, UNESCO, and the Council of Europe to prevent the destruction of the Old Bridge in Mostar and dispatch, without any delay, a group of UNESCO experts that would ensure its protection.

The Old Bridge in Mostar has been obliterated. On this day, 9 November 1993, the Croatian Army and the Croatian Defense Council has destroyed the most significant monument of Bosnian-Herzegovinian culture. Since 1566 the Bridge, with its 20 metre high arch had linked the banks of one of Europe's most beautiful cities.

We expected that the civilized world would recognize in that jewel of architecture the irreplaceable beauty of history and spirit of an old European people and that the world would stop the destroyers.

One of the most beautiful historical bridges from the 16th century disappeared before the eyes of the world, as yet another terrible crime against culture in this century.

Together with the Old Bridge, the hope died, that humankind can protect itself from the abyss of crime where the Bosnian people and its culture have been thrown.

It is the last hour that those within the international community, who so stubbornly equalize the victim and the aggressor, to realize the difference between the aggression and fight for freedom, between savagery and civilization. If after this, the international community finally realizes the truth, then the disappearance of the Old Bridge was no completely in vain.

Presidency of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina